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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	09/534,916
Filing Date	Mar 23, 2000
First Named Inventor	Marsh
Group Art Unit	2876
Examiner Name	LEE, SEUNG H
Attorney Docket Number	MS1-525US

ENCLOSURES *(check all that apply)*

- [✓] Fee Transmittal Form
  - [ ] Fee Attached
- [ ] Amendment / Reply
  - [ ] After Final
  - [ ] Affidavits/declaration(s)
- [ ] Extension of Time Request
- [ ] Express Abandonment Request
- [ ] Information Disclosure Statement
- [ ] Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- [ ] Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - [ ] Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- [ ] Assignment Papers *(for an Application)*
- [ ] Drawing(s) Sheets
- [ ] Licensing-related Papers
- [ ] Petition
- [ ] Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- [ ] Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- [ ] Terminal Disclaimer
- [ ] Request for Refund
- [ ] CD, Number of CD(s) _____
- [ ] After Allowance Communication to Group
- [ ] Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- [✓] Appeal Communication to Group (*Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief*)
- [ ] Proprietary Information
- [ ] Status Letter
- [✓] Other Enclosure(s) *(please identify below)*: Return Postcard

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Allan T. Sponseller, Reg. No. 38,318
Signature	
Date	11/1/04

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ($) 340.00

Complete if Known	
Application Number	09/534,916
Filing Date	Mar 23, 2000
First Named Inventor	Marsh
Examiner Name	LEE, SEUNG H
Art Unit	2876
Attorney Docket No.	MS1-525US

METHOD OF PAYMENT *(check all that apply)*

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☑ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number: 12-0769

Deposit Account Name: Lee & Hayes, PLLC

The Director is authorized to: *(check all that apply)*

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) ($) 0.00

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

	Extra Claims		Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims		-20** =		X =
Independent Claims		- 3** =		X =
Multiple Dependent				=

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) ($) 0.00

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code	Large Entity Fee ($)	Small Entity Fee Code	Small Entity Fee ($)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for *ex parte* reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal	
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	340
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee	
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) ($) 340.00

SUBMITTED BY

(Complete *(if applicable)*)

Name (Print/Type)	Allan T. Sponseller	*Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)*	38,318	*Telephone*	(509) 324-9256
Signature				*Date*	11/1/04

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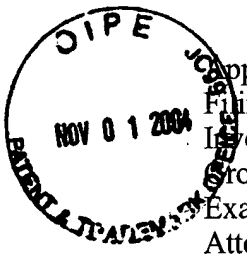

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. 09/534,916
Filing Date ..... March 23, 2000
Inventor ..... David J. Marsh
Group Art Unit 2876
Examiner ..... Lee, Seung H.
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-525US
Confirmation No. 9507
Title: Enhancing Smart Card Usage For Associating Media Content with Households

APPEAL BRIEF

To: Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

From: Allan Sponseller (Tel. 509-324-9256x215; Fax 509-323-8979)
Customer No. 22801

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §41.37, Applicant hereby submits an appeal brief for application 09/534,916, filed March 23, 2000, within the requisite time from the date of filing the Notice of Appeal. Accordingly, Applicant appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences seeking review of the Examiner's rejections.

11/05/2004 AWONDAF1 00000095 120769 09534916
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(1) Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Microsoft Corporation, the assignee of all right, title and interest in and to the subject invention.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

Appellant is not aware of any other appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or otherwise have a bearing on the Board's decision to this pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

Claims 1-22, 24-36, 38-46, 50, and 52-57 stand rejected and are pending in this Application. Claims 1-22, 24-36, 38-46, 50, and 52-57 are appealed. Some of claims 1-22, 24-36, 38-46, 50, and 52-57 were previously amended. Claims 23, 37, 47-49, and 51 were previously canceled. Claims 1-22, 24-36, 38-46, 50, and 52-57 are set forth in the Appendix of Appealed Claims on page 33.

(4) Status of Amendments

A Final Office Action was issued on April 6, 2004.

A Response to the Final Office Action was filed July 6, 2004. No amendments were made as part of this Response.

An Advisory Action was issued on August 9, 2004, indicating that the request for reconsideration had been considered but did not place the application in condition for allowance.

Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal on September 2, 2004 in response to the Advisory Action and the Final Office Action.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

A concise explanation of each of the independent claims is included in this Summary section, including specific reference characters. These specific reference characters are examples of particular elements of the drawings for certain embodiments of the claimed invention, and the claims are not limited to solely the elements corresponding to these reference characters.

With respect to independent claim 1, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 31, line 4 through page 35, line 16, a smart card (246) includes a key and a memory unit. The key (270 and/or 268) is associated with a household and is to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content at the household that is associated with the household. The memory unit includes a user-specific information storage section (279) to store user preferences, and a data storage section (278) to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

With respect to independent claim 9, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 31, line 4 through page 35, line 16, a smart card (246) includes a key (270 and/or 268), associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households. The smart card also includes a data storage section (278) to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

With respect to independent claim 16, as discussed for example at page 31, line 4 through page 33, line 10, a method of encrypting media content received at a user's home from a programming source includes checking (328), at the user's home, whether a smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content. The method further includes encrypting (334), at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content.

With respect to independent claim 21, as discussed for example at page 21, line 20 through page 22, line 14, page 31, lines 9 through 19, and page 33, line 11 through page 35, line 16, a method of decrypting media content includes checking (358) whether a portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content, wherein the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data, and determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device, wherein the data is expected to be of value to a user, and wherein the data is not used to decrypt the media content. The method further includes decrypting (362) the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content.

With respect to independent claim 26, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 35, line 17 through page 37, line 5, a system includes a plurality of smart cards (246), each to be used for encrypting different categories of multimedia presentations. The system also includes an encryption module (222) coupled to receive a multimedia presentation and

encrypt, at the user's home, the multimedia presentation based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.

With respect to independent claim 29, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 33, line 11 through page 35, line 16, a method of allowing parental control over media content, includes receiving (356), at a household, media content, and encrypting (366), at the household, the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card, wherein the household identifier is associated with one household. The method further includes requiring (370) the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media content.

With respect to independent claim 34, as discussed for example at page 31, line 4 through page 33, line 10, and page 35, line 17 through page 37, line 5, a method of allowing parental control over media content includes comparing (328) a rating corresponding to the media content to a rating associated with a smart card. The method further includes allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, wherein a plurality of ratings do not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, and wherein the allowing access comprises allowing (334) the media content to be encrypted, at a user's home, for subsequent processing.

With respect to independent claim 38, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 33, line 11 through page 35, line 16, one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by a computing device, causes the computing device to perform

acts including receiving (366), at a household, media content, and controlling (370), at the household, encryption of the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card. Furthermore, user preferences information (279) is maintained on the smart card (246), the user preferences information being available only when the smart card is coupled to the computing device.

With respect to independent claim 40, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 31, line 4 through page 35, line 16, a smart card (246) includes a key (270 and/or 268), associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households. The smart card also includes a user-specific information storage section (278) to store user preferences.

With respect to independent claim 45, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, a method includes maintaining, on an integrated circuit card (246), information regarding a user's preferences (279) corresponding to media content. The method further includes maintaining, on the integrated circuit card, a key (270 and/or 268) to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households.

With respect to independent claim 50, as discussed for example at page 17, line 19 through page 23, line 4, and page 28, line 21 through page 33, line 10, a method of identifying boundaries of a network of devices includes encrypting

(334), at a single house, media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality of smart cards (246). The method further includes limiting (342) rendering of the media content to a network of devices to which the plurality of smart cards are coupled, wherein the network of devices is maintained within the single house.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 9-12, 16, 18, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 13, 14, 26-32, 34-36, 38-45, 50, 52, 53, and 55-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams.

Claims 20, 25, 33, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,204 to Thompson et al.

Claims 3, 4, 15, 17, 22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,744,787 to Teicher.

Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,119 to Rouyrre et al.

(7) Argument

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al.

Claims 9-12, 16, 18, 19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim").

1. Claims 9-12

Claim 9 is directed to a smart card comprising:

> a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and
>
> a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a smart card comprising a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular

household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 9.

In the April 6 Office Action, at page 9 (first full paragraph) it was asserted that:

> In response to applicant's argument that "...*Kim does not disclose or suggest a key that is associated with one particular household.....but not to encrypt media content associated with other households....*" (see page 16, line 9+ of response filed on 11 July 2003), the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant wherein Owashi teaches an IC card associated with one particular household namely a receiver decoder and not associated with the other household namely VTR. Moreover, Kim also teaches an access card that is associated with particular household namely an integrated receiver/decoder (IRD) system for receiving satellite broadcasting media as discussed in paragraph 3 above.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

First, it appears that the April 6 Office Action is relying on the receiver decoder and the VTR of Owashi as teaching a key that is associated with one particular household, the key to be used to encrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household but not to encrypt media content associated with other households. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Owashi. The receiver decoder and the VTR of Owashi are both part of the same subscriber 50 (see, Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 56-63). As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the receiver decoder and the VTR of Owashi would be part of the same household. There is no mention in Owashi of the receiver decoder and VTR being separated across different households. Without any such mention or discussion in Owashi, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi cannot disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and

that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 9.

Second, the April 6 Office Action at p. 3 (first full paragraph), states that "Owashi fails to teach encrypting of media content". Since Owashi fails to teach encrypting of media content, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi cannot disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 9.

Third, it appears that the April 6 Office Action is also relying on the integrated receiver/decoder (IRD) system for receiving satellite broadcasting media of Kim as discussed in paragraph 3 of the April 6 Office Action as teaching a key that is associated with one particular household, the key to be used to encrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household but not to encrypt media content associated with other households. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of Kim.

Kim discusses that the IRD uses an access card that is required for conditional access (CA) for conditional reception (see, col. 2, lines 19-29). However, nowhere in the IRD of Kim is there any mention of, much less discussion of, a key that is associated with one particular household, the key to be used to encrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household but not to encrypt media content associated with other households. Applicant

respectfully submits that the mere existence of the access card or IRD of Kim does not disclose or suggest such a key as claimed in claim 9.

Additionally, in the April 6 Office Action, at page 9 (last paragraph) it was asserted that:

> In response to applicant's argument that "....*Kim does not disclose or suggest key-based encryption*....." (see page 16, line 21+ of response filed on 11 July 2003), Kim simply provide an evidence of encrypting media content using content of the access card, that is, selected channels are viewable according to contents of the access card (see col. 3, lines 5-10 of Kim) and adding a Macrovision-mode copy protection signals into the media signal for prohibiting copy of the media. Therefore, given its broadest reasonable interpretation of this instance claimed invention, the combination of Owashi and Kim meets the claimed invention as discussed in paragraph 3 above.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion, and respectfully maintains that Kim does not disclose or suggest key-based encryption as used in claim 9.

The discussion of selected channels being viewable according to contents of the access card at col. 3, lines 5-10 of Kim does not make any mention of key-based encryption. There is no discussion in Kim as to how these selected channels are viewable according to contents of the access card. Absent such discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited portion cannot disclose or suggest key-based encryption as used in claim 9.

Furthermore, the Macrovision-mode copy protection signals discussed in Kim do not disclose or suggest key-based encryption. The Macrovision IPPS system discussed in the cited portions of Kim "uses a method of operating the header's flag bits, without employing, to digital data, encoding methods such as scrambling and encryption" (see, emphasis added, col. 3, lines 57-60). As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the Macrovision IPPS system of Kim cannot

disclose or suggest encryption, much less key-based encryption, as used in claim 9.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a smart card comprising a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 9.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim.

Given that claims 10-12 depend from claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-12 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 9.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 9-12 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 9-12 should be withdrawn.

2. Claims 16, 18, and 19

With respect to claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content as recited in claim 16. As discussed above with respect to claim 9, Owashi does not teach encrypting media content, and Kim discloses an integrated receiver/decoder and an access card, but there is nothing in Kim to suggest that the integrated

receiver/decoder or access card is used to encrypt media content, much less encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content as recited in claim 16. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim.

Given that claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 16, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18 and 19 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 16.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 16, 18, and 19 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 9-12 should be withdrawn.

3. Claim 21

With respect to claim 21, claim 21 is directed to a method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:

> checking whether a portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content, wherein the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data;
>
> determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device, wherein the data is expected to be of value to a user, and wherein the data is not used to decrypt the media content; and
>
> decrypting the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content.

Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data, and determining that the portable integrated circuit device is

authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device as recited in claim 21.

In the April 6 Office Action at p. 10 (first paragraph), it was asserted that:

> In response to applicant's argument that "*...such unit and microcomputer does not disclose or suggest a decryption key and additional data...*" (see page 19, line 21+ of response filed on 11 July 2003), the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant wherein the access card of Kim is used for determining user(s) can view received media content according to the privileges of the access card, that is, the access card contain a permission or not. Accordingly, give its broadest reasonable interpretation, the teachings of Owashi as modified by Kim meets the claimed limitations.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion, and respectfully maintains that Kim does not disclose or suggest the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data, and determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device as recited in claim 21.

Kim states, at col. 2, lines 35-40:

> Access card 22, whose size is similar to that of a general credit card, has a built-in IC. With this, the card receives CA-related information through a broadcast bit stream and telephone line, that is, a telco MODEM, in order to decide whether a user, subscriber, - selected channel can be viewed or not and to collect its subscription fee."

Kim does not, however, discuss how such decisions are made. Nowhere does Kim make any mention of or have any discussion of a portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data, and determining that the portable

integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device as recited in claim 21. The mere mention that CA-related information is received by the card in order to decide whether a user, subscriber, - selected channel can be viewed or not and to collect its subscription fee does not disclose or suggest a portable integrated circuit device storing two things (the decryption key and the additional data), much less determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device as recited in claim 21.

Applicant respectfully submits that there is no mention of both a decryption key and additional data being stored on the access card of Kim. Without such a mention in Kim, Applicant respectfully submits that Kim cannot disclose a portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data, much less determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the additional data on the portable integrated circuit device as recited in claim 21.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 13, 14, 26-32, 34-36, 38-45, 50, 52, 53, and 55-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. (hereinafter "Handelman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams (hereinafter "Adams").

1. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 55-57

With respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 9 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content at the household that is associated with the household as recited in claim 1. As discussed above with respect to claim 9, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households, and does not disclose or suggest key-based encryption. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt media content at the household that is associated

with the household. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 2, 5-8, and 55-57 depend from claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 5-8, and 55-57 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 1.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 5-8, 55-57 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 55-57 should be withdrawn.

2. Claims 13 and 14

With respect to claims 13 and 14, claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 9, and Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 14 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 9. Furthermore, Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 9, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 9. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 14 are allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 14 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 13 and 14 should be withdrawn.

3. Claims 26, 27, and 28

With respect to claim 26, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 9 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest an encryption module coupled to receive a multimedia presentation and encrypt, at the user's home, the multimedia presentation based on a key maintained on one of a plurality of smart cards as recited in claim 26. As discussed above with respect to claim 9, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households, and does not disclose or suggest key-based encryption. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest an encryption module coupled to receive a multimedia presentation and encrypt, at the user's home, the multimedia presentation based on a key maintained on one of a plurality of smart cards. Furthermore, Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 26 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 26, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27 and 28 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 26.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 26, 27, and 28 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 26, 27, and 28 should be withdrawn.

4. Claims 29 and 30-32

With respect to claim 29, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 16 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the household, the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card, wherein the household identifier is associated with one household as recited in claim 29. As discussed above with respect to claim 16, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the household, the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 30-32 depend from claim 29, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 30-32 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 29.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 29 and 30-32 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 29 and 30-32 should be withdrawn.

5. Claims 34, 35, and 36

With respect to claim 34, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 16 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, wherein the allowing access comprises allowing the media content to be encrypted, at a user's home, for subsequent processing as recited in claim 34. As discussed above with respect to claim 16, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest allowing the media content to be encrypted, at a user's home, if the rating corresponding to the media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant

respectfully submits that claim 34 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 35 and 36 depend from claim 34, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35 and 36 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 34.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 34, 35, and 36 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 34, 35, and 36 should be withdrawn.

6. Claims 38 and 39

With respect to claim 38, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 16 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest controlling, at the household, encryption of the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card as recited in claim 38. As discussed above with respect to claim 16, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest controlling, at the household, encryption of the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits

that claim 38 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claim 39 depends from claim 38, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 39 is likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 38.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 38 and 39 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 38 and 39 should be withdrawn.

7. Claims 40-44

With respect to claim 40, Applicant respectfully submits that, as discussed above with respect to claim 9, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 40. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 40 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 41-44 depend from claim 40, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 41-44 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and

further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 40.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 40-44 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 40-44 should be withdrawn.

8. Claim 45

With respect to claim 45, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 9 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest maintaining, on an integrated circuit card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households as recited in claim 45. As discussed above with respect to claim 9, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households, and does not disclose or suggest key-based encryption. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest maintaining, on an integrated circuit card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and

Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 45 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 40-44 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 40-44 should be withdrawn.

9. Claims 50, 52, and 53

With respect to claim 50, Applicant respectfully submits that, similar to the discussion of claim 16 above, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at a single house, media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality of smart cards as recited in claim 50. As discussed above with respect to claim 16, Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Owashi in view of Kim does not disclose or suggest encrypting, at a single house, media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality of smart cards. Handelman and Adams are not cited as curing this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Adams do not cure this deficiency of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 50 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and further in view of Handelman and Adams.

Given that claims 52 and 53 depend from claim 50, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 52 and 53 are likewise allowable over Owashi in view of Kim

and further in view of Handelman and Adams for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 50.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 40-44 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 40-44 should be withdrawn.

C. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,204 to Thompson et al.

Claims 20, 25, 33, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim") and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. (hereinafter "Handelman") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,204 to Thompson et al. (hereinafter "Thompson").

1. Claim 20

Claim 20 depends from claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Thompson are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 16, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Thompson do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is

allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Thompson.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 20 should be withdrawn.

2. Claim 25

Claim 25 depends from claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Thompson are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 21, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Thompson do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 25 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Thompson.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 25 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 25 should be withdrawn.

3. Claim 33

Claim 33 depends from claim 29. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Thompson are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 29, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Thompson do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 33 is

allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Thompson.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 33 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 33 should be withdrawn.

4. Claim 46

Claim 46 depends from claim 45. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 45 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Thompson are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 45, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Thompson do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 46 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Thompson.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 46 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 46 should be withdrawn.

D. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,744,787 to Teicher.

Claims 3, 4, 15, 17, 22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim")

and U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. (hereinafter "Handelman") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,744,787 to Teicher (hereinafter "Teicher").

1. Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Teicher are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 1, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Teicher do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 4 are allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Teicher.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 4 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 should be withdrawn.

2. Claim 15

Claim 15 depends from claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Teicher are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 9, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Teicher do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is

allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Teicher.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 15 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn.

3. Claim 17

Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Teicher are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 16, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Teicher do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Teicher.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 17 is allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

4. Claims 22 and 24

Claims 22 and 24 depend from claim 21. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim as discussed above. Handelman and Teicher are not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim discussed above with respect to claim 21, and Applicant respectfully submits that Handelman and Teicher do not cure these deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims

22 and 24 are allowable over Owashi in view of Kim and Handelman and further in view of Teicher.

Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 22 and 24 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 22 and 24 should be withdrawn.

E. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. and, U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,119 to Rouyrre et al.

Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,210 to Owashi et al. (hereinafter "Owashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,081 to Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"), U.S. Patent No. 5,666,412 to Handelman et al. (hereinafter "Handelman"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,378,130 to Adams (hereinafter "Adams"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,119 to Rouyrre et al. (hereinafter "Rouyrre").

1. Claim 54

Claim 54 depends from claim 50. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 50 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim, Handelman, and Adams as discussed above. Rouyrre is not cited as curing the deficiencies of Owashi in view of Kim, Handelman, and Adams as discussed above with respect to claim 50, and Applicant respectfully submits that Rouyrre does not cure the deficiencies of

Owashi in view of Kim, Handelman, and Adams. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 54 is allowable over Owashi in view of Kim, Handelman, and Adams, and further in view Rouyrre.

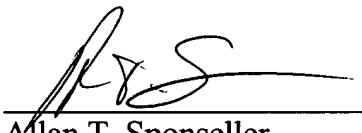
Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that claims 22 and 24 are allowable over the cited references and that the rejection of claims 22 and 24 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Office's basis and supporting rationale for the § 103(a) rejections is not supported by the teaching of the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be overturned and that pending claims 1-22, 24-36, 38-46, 50, and 52-57 be allowed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 11/1/04

By: 

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(8) Appendix of Appealed Claims

1. A smart card comprising:

a key, associated with a household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content at the household that is associated with the household; and

a memory unit, the memory unit including,

a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences, and

a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

2. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit comprises a nonvolatile memory.

3. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the data comprises electronic money.

4. A smart card as recited in claim 3, wherein the smart card can be used to encrypt and decrypt media content only if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is stored on the smart card.

5. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card corresponds to a particular category of media content and is used to encrypt and decrypt only that particular category of media content.

6. A smart card as recited in claim 5, wherein one of the categories of media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

7. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory unit further includes a rating associated with the smart card that is used to compare the rating with a rating corresponding to the media content and determine, based on the comparison, whether to allow access to the media content.

8. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the smart card is used to limit where rendering of the media content can occur.

9. A smart card comprising:

a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content that is associated with the one particular household and that is to be rendered at the one particular household, but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and

a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

10. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that encrypts media content, an indication of whether to encrypt the media content based on data stored in the data storage section.

11. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that decrypts media content, an indication of whether to decrypt the media content based on data stored in the data storage section.

12. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a processor to execute instructions to encrypt and decrypt the media content.

13. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

14. A smart card as recited in claim 9, further comprising a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.

15. A smart card as recited in claim 9, wherein the data in the data storage section comprises electronic money.

16. A method of encrypting media content received at a user's home from a programming source, the method comprising:

checking, at the user's home, whether a smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content; and

encrypting, at the user's home, the media content only if the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is available on the smart card.

18. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising determining that the smart card is authorized to encrypt the media content only if data is stored on the smart card that is expected to be of value to a user.

19. A method as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

checking whether the smart card is authorized to decrypt media content; and

decrypting the media content only if the smart card is authorized to decrypt the media content.

20. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

21. A method of decrypting media content, the method comprising:

checking whether a portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content, wherein the portable integrated circuit device stores a decryption key and additional data;

determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content only if data other than electronic money is stored as the

additional data on the portable integrated circuit device, wherein the data is expected to be of value to a user, and wherein the data is not used to decrypt the media content; and

decrypting the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising determining that the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to decrypt the media content if at least a threshold amount of electronic money is available on the portable integrated circuit device.

24. A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

checking whether the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to encrypt media content; and

encrypting the media content only if the portable integrated circuit device is authorized to encrypt the media content.

25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 21.

26. A system comprising:

a plurality of smart cards, each to be used for encrypting different categories of multimedia presentations; and

an encryption module coupled to receive a multimedia presentation and encrypt, at the user's home, the multimedia presentation based on a key maintained on one of the plurality of smart cards.

27. A system as recited in claim 26, further comprising a decoding module, coupled to receive the encrypted multimedia presentation, decrypt the encrypted multimedia presentation, decode the decrypted multimedia presentation, and transmit the decoded multimedia presentation to a rendering module.

28. A system as recited in claim 26, wherein one of the categories of multimedia presentations comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of multimedia presentations comprises adult-oriented media content.

29. A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

receiving, at a household, media content;

encrypting, at the household, the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card, wherein the household identifier is associated with one household; and

requiring the smart card to be present to decrypt and render the media content.

30. A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the requiring comprises requiring the smart card to be inserted into a smart card reader coupled to a computing device that is decrypting the media content.

31. A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising using a plurality of different smart cards to encrypt and decrypt media content, each of the plurality of smart cards corresponding to a different category of media content.

32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein one of the categories of media content comprises family-oriented media content and another of the categories of media content comprises adult-oriented media content.

33. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 29.

34. A method of allowing parental control over media content, the method comprising:

comparing a rating corresponding to the media content to a rating associated with a smart card; and

allowing access to the media content if the rating corresponding to the media content does not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, wherein a plurality of ratings do not exceed the rating associated with the smart card, and

wherein the allowing access comprises allowing the media content to be encrypted, at a user's home, for subsequent processing.

35. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the comparing comprises comparing the rating corresponding to the media content to the rating associated with the smart card as stored on the smart card.

36. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the allowing access comprises allowing the media content to be decrypted for rendering.

38. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by a computing device, causes the computing device to perform acts including:

receiving, at a household, media content;

controlling, at the household, encryption of the received media content based on a household identifier corresponding to a smart card; and

maintaining user preferences information on the smart card, the user preferences information being available only when the smart card is coupled to the computing device.

39. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 38, wherein the smart card is coupled to the computing device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card reader that is coupled to the computing device.

40. A smart card comprising:

a key, associated with one particular household, to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with the one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households; and

a user-specific information storage section to store user preferences.

41. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a communications module to communicate, to a computing device module that encrypts media content, the user preferences stored in the user-specific information storage section.

42. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a processor to manage the user-specific information storage section.

43. A smart card as recited in claim 40, wherein the user-specific information storage section is maintained in a nonvolatile memory.

44. A smart card as recited in claim 40, further comprising a data storage section to store data that is expected to be of value to a user.

45. A method comprising:

maintaining, on an integrated circuit card, information regarding a user's preferences corresponding to media content; and

maintaining, on the integrated circuit card, a key to be used to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with one particular household at the one particular household but not to encrypt and decrypt media content associated with other households.

46. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 45.

50. A method of identifying boundaries of a network of devices, the method comprising:

encrypting, at a single house, media content based on an identifier corresponding to a plurality of smart cards; and

limiting rendering of the media content to a network of devices to which the plurality of smart cards are coupled, wherein the network of devices is maintained within the single house.

52. A method as recited in claim 50, wherein the network devices include devices to receive media content and devices to render media content.

53. A method as recited in claim 50, wherein one of the plurality of smart cards is coupled to a device when the smart card is inserted into a smart card reader coupled to the device.

54. A method as recited in claim 50, wherein the plurality of smart cards can be moved to different devices to alter the boundaries of the network.

55. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more channels preferred by the user.

56. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more viewing times preferred by the user.

57. A smart card as recited in claim 1, wherein the user preferences comprise one or more types of content preferred by the user.